



# Annual Sampling and Cleanup Update

## Libby Asbestos Superfund Site

EPA Information Center; 501 Mineral Avenue; Libby, MT 59923 - (406) 293-6194  
DEQ Troy Information Center; 303 N. Third Street; Troy, MT 59935 - (406) 295-9238  
Environmental Resource Specialist – (406) 291-5335

May 2008

### Your ERS Answers the Call

Introduced in October 2006, the Environmental Resource Specialist (ERS) has now answered over 200 calls. The ERS position is intended to remain after EPA finishes its work in order to answer your questions should you encounter vermiculite on your property or in your home in the future.



The ERS can offer on-the-spot answers to your questions if you encounter vermiculite, which is likely to contain Libby Amphibole asbestos, when you're remodeling or doing yard work. It's also a good idea to consult with the ERS before you begin a project on your property. Contact the ERS during regular business hours and emergencies at 406-291-5335.

### Operable Units

EPA divides its large Superfund sites into separate Operable Units or "OUs." This is done to make the project easier to manage since certain segments of the project are so different from the others. We are pleased to report that during this past year progress was made at all seven OUs.

### OUs 1, 2, 5, & 6 – Processing Areas

Work on OU 1, the former Export Plant, included completing the final Data Summary Report; visible vermiculite in the soil was sampled and analyzed; and an Activity Based Sampling program was designed. In the months to come, the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study needed to support a Proposed Plan and Record of Decision will be completed for OU 1. Next year, also look for a new city park on this property. At OU 2, the former Screening Plant and KDC Flyway/Bluffs, the final Data Summary Report and Data Gap Analysis were completed. OU 5 is the former Stimson Lumber Mill where the wood chip piles and soil were sampled this past year. Also Activity Based Sampling was completed in the old mill buildings.

Next year on OU 5, we plan on conducting Activity Based Sampling on the BMX track and other soils as well as supporting local development efforts. The final Data Summary Report for OU 6, the BNSF Railyard and Railway, was written this past year and sampling along the rail line will begin this summer.

### OU 3 – The Mine

OU 3 also includes areas impacted by releases from the mine including Rainy Creek, the Kootenai River, settling ponds, the surrounding forest, and Rainy Creek Road. At this OU, EPA develops the work plans and cleanup objectives, and a contractor for W.R. Grace performs the work with direct EPA oversight. This past year, tree bark and soil at and around the mine were sampled. This season, these sampling data will be analyzed.

### OU 4 – Libby Homes & Businesses

Through 2007, 954 residential and commercial properties have been cleaned up. During this construction season, we plan on completing 144 larger and more complicated properties in Libby as well as 6 residences in Troy with very high exposure risks. Cleanups of Flower and Granite (and perhaps Callahan) Creeks also will be completed this coming year. Our comprehensive Activity Based Sampling program in Libby will be completed this spring and the results will be analyzed over the summer.

### OU 7 - Sampling Continues in Troy

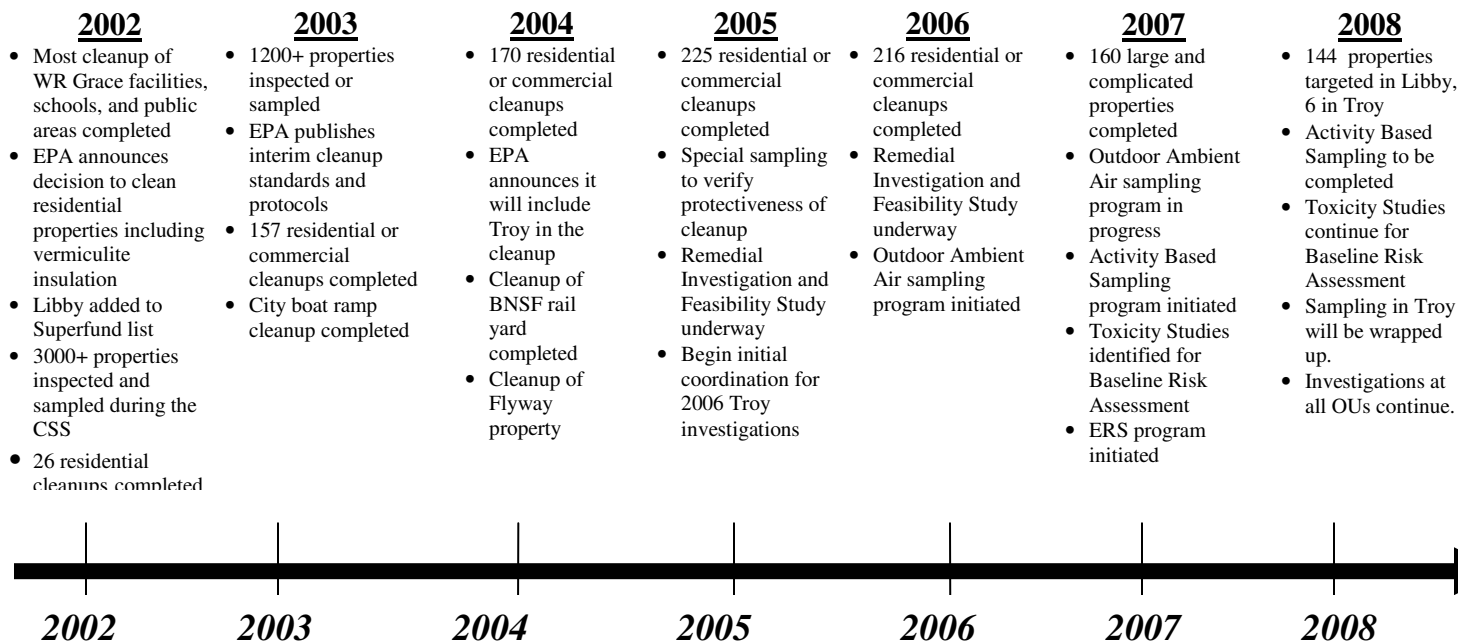
Troy is OU 7 of the Libby Asbestos Superfund Site where approximately 1,200 properties have been identified for sampling. 535 properties were inspected and sampled last year and the Troy Asbestos Property Evaluation (TAPE) effort should be completed this year by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), the lead agency for OU 7. Visit the MDEQ Troy Information Center at 303 N. Third Street to obtain an access agreement ensuring that your property gets sampled.

Return service requested



## 2008 Annual Cleanup Update Inside

### *Libby Project Timeline – 2002 to 2008*



**Questions?** Please visit or call the EPA Information Center, at 501 Mineral Avenue in Libby (406-293-6194), or call the following EPA staff toll free:

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1-800-227-8917 x312-6808

- **Mike Cirian**, On-Site Project Manager 406-293-6194

- **Ted Linnert**, Community Involvement Coordinator  
1-800-227-8917 x312-6119